

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 00936 232006Z

21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

/088 W

----- 000381

R 231455Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2983

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 0936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, NI, PINR

SUBJECT: RUMORED RETIREMENT OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY PERMSEC

REF: (A) LAGOS 772 (B) LAGOS 779

1. EMBASSY HAS NOW HEARD FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT PERMSEC OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY SUNDAY B AWONIYI DEFINITELY PLANS TO RETIRE IN AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER WHEN HE REACHES AGE 45, AND IS TRYING TO GO ON LEAVE BEFORE THEN. NO SUCCESSOR HAS BEEN FOUND YET.

2. AWONIYI IS APPARENTLY UNHAPPY WITH THE PRESENT REGIME AND WANTS TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE WAS REPORTEDLY ASKED TO STAY ON AND SERVE HIS COUNTRY BY CHIEF OF STAFF OBASANJO, BUT DECLARED HE WOULD RATHER RETIRE THAN BE SACKED. IF IN FACT AWONIYI DOES DISAGREE WITH FMG POLICIES ON OIL MATTERS (FOR EXAMPLE OBASANJO'S COMMENTS IN IBADAN ABOUT USING OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPON REPORTED REFTEL (B), THEN HE PROBABLY ALSO FEELS UNCOMFORTABLE WORKING UNDER COMMISSIONER OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY DR. M.T. O. AKOBO. AKOBO OWES HIS JOB TO HAVING BEEN OBASANJO'S PERSONAL PHYSICIAN WHEN THE LATTER COMMANDED THE THIRD ARMY DIVISION IN PORT HARCOURT DURING  
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PAGE 02 LAGOS 00936 232006Z

THE CIVIL WAR, AND DOUBTLESS REFLECTS OBASANJO'S VIEWS ON OIL

POLICY PRETTY CLOSELY. AWONIYI, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAS A  
REPUTATION AMONG THE OIL COMPANIES AS BEING REASONABLE MODERATE  
AND WILLING TO LEARN.  
EASUM

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, MINISTERS (DIPLOMATS), PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976LAGOS00936  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760027-0401  
**From:** LAGOS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760128/aaaaayne.tel  
**Line Count:** 65  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 LAGOS 772, 76 LAGOS 779  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

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**Review Referrals:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RUMORED RETIREMENT OF PETROLEUM AND ENERGY PERMSEC  
**TAGS:** ENRG, PINR, NI  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006